THE ASHBY TOWN PUMP

VOL. I FEBRUARY 1945 NO. 9

After hearing about all those "old fashioned winters", it is almost a pleasure to see the old-timers' eyes pop at the weather of the past few weeks. Starting with a nice base, the snow started coming in regular intervals with successive layers until there was something over 45 inches on the level. Had the weather man stopped there, everything would have been fine, but after each storm the wind started to blow and the temperature drop. Gales reaching 60 miles an hour velocities drove and packed the snow into some astounding drifts reaching 8 and 10 foot heights, and with no let up of snow or wind, the roads are being continually filled in. Because of the road conditions the school has had to close for a few days and many families have been isolated for over a week.

The storms have come not only to New England but also the Mid-West, with the result being that the railroads are jammed to a standstill, necessitating a freight embargo for several days until normal traffic could be resumed. Some shortages have appeared as a result with coal and oil being the most critical items, and some perishable foods being completely ruined. War plants too have suffered lacking raw materials and being unable to make shipments of finished goods.

TOWN MEETING

The annual Town meeting day rolls around again on next March 6th. The town report is about ready for distribution to the voters. The warrant will contain all the usual articles necessary to be acted on and a few special articles such as new appropriations for permanent bridges which are gradually replacing the old wooden ones, and for additional road and snow removal equipment. Also, there is an article to ask the town to vote whether or not they will elect a Planning Board to develop plans and specifications for a new town building, the name of which has been suggested might be "Memorial Building". Much interest is being taken in this article, and no doubt it will be given a lot of consideration by the voters at the Town Meeting.

Irrespective of Town Meeting, if any of you Service men and women would like to write in your opinions, for or against a community building for Ashby, and any suggestions you may have regarding same, your "Town Pump" Committee would be glad to publish them.

Letters To The "Town Pump" From Chief Machinist Mate Lester Hodgeman:

Dear Friends:

I have received the first four copies of the Town Pump and enjoyed them very much. I found out where some of my old buddies are and may be able to look some of them up. Robert "Bobbie" Joyce is on the ship with me and also liked the papers I showed to him.

I guess I am not classed as one of the Ashby boys any more as I have been away for a long time. I have been in the Navy over twenty years now, and have had all sea duty, so have been most every place there is to go. I was on convoy duty on one of the old destroyers before war was declared and stayed on it until the ship was sunk. I was one of the lucky ones that came out on top. Then I was on an aircraft carrier that was in the task force that took over Casa Blanca and Africa. Was also in on the Guadalcanal deal on the same carrier. I have been in on most of the invasion fronts or at least near to them. The following is a list of the countries I have been to and ashore in since war started: Costa Rica, Salvador, Honduras, Cuba, Newfoundland, Iceland, Ireland, Nova Scotia, Africa, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Samoa, Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, India, England, Scotland, France and Italy. I have really seen a lot of interesting places.

I have been in Ashby only about three times since I left, so most of the people there are strangers to me, but there are still a few that I know there. I have never had a chance to stay there over a day and therefore didn't have a chance to see many of the people. It would please me very much if you would say hello to all my old friends and also the newcomers, and tell them I still think of them.

I have been married sixteen years to a girl from Seattle, Washington. She was in Ashby with me and liked it very much what little she got to see of it.

As I am on a ship that does a lot of traveling now, I am sure some of the fellows will be able to get in touch with me if you mention the name of the ship I am on in the Town Pump.

U.S.S. Mount Vernon
c/o Fleet Post Office
New York, N.Y.

Major General Earl E. Partridge was recently awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by General Eisenhower along with five other United States Air Force Generals for the most effective use of air power the world has ever known. Maj. General Partridge, who is in command of the 2nd and 3rd division of the 8th Air Force, writes us from the European theatre of war, "The splendid billfold which you sent me arrived in good time and has been promptly put to work. Although the money in this country does not exactly fit, I am sure the billfold will last until I can take it back where we use Uncle Sam's moderate sized currency.

I would like to thank you also for sending me the Town Pump, for it provides a way for me to keep up with the Service people from Ashby."

Then from Everett Treworgy in the South Pacific; "The rainy season has started over here and it really gets quite damp. A few nights ago a pair of my shoes floated right out of the tent and nearly wound up under some other G.I.'s bunk. So far nothing unusual has happened to me and I keep all fingers crossed."--we, too, do--for you.

Luther Hayes writes from Iona Island, Peekskill, N.Y.--where he is sergeant of the guards at the naval ammunition depot there: "I enjoyed my furlough so much and everyone pitched in to help me forget the months that have elapsed since I last saw them. The honor roll by the Library is a fitting memorial

Le [illegible] Pup"
[illegible] Lucky
Hodge
Deer [illegible]

I [illegible] the first four
copies [illegible] and un-
loy [illegible] I found
out [illegible] old buddies
are [illegible] to look some
of [illegible] "Bobbie"
[illegible] up with me and
also [illegible] I showed
to [illegible]

[illegible] classed as
one [illegible] ways any more as
I be [illegible] for a long time.
I have [illegible] the story over twen-
ty [illegible] and have had all see
duty [illegible] been most every place
[illegible] I was on convoy
duty [illegible] the old destroy-
[illegible] was destroyed and
[illegible] until the ship was
[illegible] one of the lucky
[illegible] out on top. Then
[illegible] aircraft carrier that
[illegible] task force that took
[illegible] Africa and Africa.
[illegible] on the quadricennial
[illegible] which were carrier. I have
been [illegible] most of the invasion
fronts [illegible] least most to them.
The following is a list of the
countries I have been to and
before the since our attend:
Costa Rica, Salvador, Honduras,
Cuba, Newfoundland, Iceland,
Ireland, Nova Scotia, Africa, New
Caledonia, New Hebrides, Samoa,
Guadalcanal, New Zealand, New
Guinea, India, England, Scotland,
France and Italy. I have really
seen a lot of interesting [illegible]
I have been in Italy only a-
bout three times since I left.
Most of the people there [illegible]
strangers to me, but there are
still [illegible] that I know there.
I have never had a chance to [illegible]
there [illegible] day and [illegible]
didn't [illegible] a chance to [illegible]
of [illegible]. It would please
me very much if you would say
hello to all my old friends and
also the newcomers, and tell
them I [illegible] thought of them
[illegible]

for the ones in the service, but I am sorry to hear we have added another gold star."

Luther H. Hayes Jr., who recently returned from 29 months service in the First Marine Division in the Southwest Pacific, has been promoted to sergeant. This promotion was received through the Marine Corps headquarters in Washington. The recommendation was signed by General Putler, who led the division in the capture of Pelliou and was for meritorious conduct for leading his squad on a patrol to knock out a Jap observation post on a high ridge. Although pinned down by mortar and small arms fire the squad got close enough to kill the occupants of the pill box.

From Raymond Wright: "My last issue of the Town Pump was delayed a little enroute as I am no longer in Africa but in this replacement depot in Italy. I can't disclose the place but I think it's near where Martha Mossman was located. The day we landed here, Rich Wilkinson's ship was in the harbour. We ate Thanksgiving Day dinner aboard the ship that brought us here. All we had was mutton, tea and bread. You can imagine whom the ship belonged to. It has been raining most of the time, so the mud is very plentiful. I guess we should consider ourselves lucky that it isn't snow." Raymond said his wallet came in very handy as all they could get in Africa were great big ones that were awkward and hard to get in one's pockets.

John Damon wrote us his appreciation of his Christmas wallet and the Town Pump. "I have been doing considerable traveling during the past four weeks. I graduated from Aviation Electrician's School here in Jacksonville in December, then went to Camp Kearney in California which is about 20 miles north of San Diego.

After working on PB4Y-2's for about three weeks I had the opportunity to go to Automatic Pilot school here in Jacksonville, so I'm back here for 12 weeks. I was detached from camp Kearney to come to school here so when I finish I'll go back to California."

Another letter from Paavo Haapala in England:
"Dear Editor,

This is my long delayed letter of thanks for the Town Pump newsletter and the Reader's Digest you neighbors have been sending to me. I received the December issue of both and found every bit interesting.

The Christmas gift wallet was received in excellent condition and I like it a lot: a prize to admire for its lifetime and I want to thank you very much for it.

We have been in England now for almost two years now and are making a good job of it. We keep our complexions up to par by drinking tea.

My present job is in flyer's equipment and my greatest responsibility is the care of oxygen masks. A rather delicate job but plenty important to the flyer's health.

The first snowfall here is the record over last winter--hardly a quarter of an inch.

After all the traveling we have done in the Army we grant that the quiet life in Ashby is something to look forward to.

To the good abiding citizens of Ashby I want to wish you all a Happy New Year."

Martha Mossman has written us from the Chelsea Naval Hospital where she is now stationed: "All the time I was overseas and now back here in Boston, I receive the Town Pump. It is one of the things I look forward to each month. Ashby means home, and even with the well dry, I would prefer it to any place else. It will be such fun when we can reopen the

After working on PBM-3's for about three weeks I had the opportunity to go to Jacksonville Pilot school here in Miami. I [illegible] here for 12 [illegible]. I was detached from [illegible] to be [illegible] school here [illegible] I [illegible] to back [illegible] Miami."

Another letter from Pa[illegible] Jacksonville in [illegible]:

"Dear Father,

This is my last [illegible] for the Navy [illegible] and the [illegible] neighbors [illegible] to me. I [illegible] bombers leave at [illegible] from [illegible] bit [illegible].

The Christmas [illegible] was received in Jacksonville con-[illegible] Christmas it is a lot: [illegible] pretty [illegible] for [illegible] and I want [illegible] very much [illegible].

"We [illegible] for [illegible] job of it. [illegible] replacements [illegible] to [illegible] son.

[illegible] one of [illegible] mother dol-[illegible] but plenty improvement [illegible] a dollar.

The first [illegible] I [illegible] room over last [illegible] -- [illegible] a [illegible] of [illegible].

After [illegible] training [illegible] they [illegible] the pilot lack in [illegible] is something to look forward to.

To the [illegible] holding attention [illegible] Father I want to wish you all [illegible] Merry Xmas Year."

Another Guamm [illegible] written [illegible] from the Colonel Mary [illegible] to [illegible] where also is now [illegible]: "All the time I was [illegible] now back home in [illegible] I [illegible] see your Pump. [illegible] to [illegible] look [illegible] morning [illegible] cold dry, I would prefer it to

for the open in the service, but I am sorry to hear we have added another [illegible] year."

Another [illegible] Jr., who recently returned from 29 months service in the First Marine Division in the Southwest Pacific, has been [illegible] to sergeant. This promotion was received through the Marine Corps headquarters in Washington. The recommendation was signed by General Butler, who led the Marines in the capture of Pelliu [illegible] was for meritorious conduct for [illegible] the squad on a patrol to [illegible] a top observation post [illegible] high ridge. Although pinned down by mortar and small arms fire [illegible] got close enough to kill the occupants of the pill[illegible].

From [illegible] "[illegible]: "My last [illegible] Pump was delayed a little [illegible] route [illegible] am no longer [illegible] this replacement [illegible] Lt. [illegible] chaplain who plans but [illegible] where Merlin [illegible] located. The day we landed here, Pick Wilkinson's ship was in the harbour. We also [illegible] Day dinner [illegible] the air that brought us here. All we had was [illegible] and bread. You can [illegible] what the [illegible] belonged to. [illegible] but [illegible] as the mud is very plentiful. I guess we should consider [illegible] alive [illegible] it [illegible]. [illegible] and the weather [illegible] very humid as [illegible] not [illegible] Eight [illegible] not [illegible] and [illegible] in [illegible] not [illegible]

[illegible] from [illegible] Corporal [illegible] Air Group [illegible] Pilot [illegible] "I have been [illegible] something [illegible] the [illegible] Pacific. I [illegible] from [illegible] Electric [illegible] School [illegible] Jacksonville [illegible] Corp [illegible] which is [illegible] 20 [illegible] Dago.

house and get back into town for good. Your paper was a very refreshing bit of New England overseas and a touch of home back in the states."

Lenny Hayes' letter speaks for itself: "Considering the time it's taken me to write my appreciation of the swell Xmas gift, you would figure I was in Africa or the North Pole, but I'm still in Georgia. I've been expecting for some time to ship out but I'm still here. I've written you before how much I enjoy the paper and I haven't changed my mind a bit except that I like it more and more each month."

Here is a grand letter from Toivo Haavisto:

"Dear Friends,
I've been intending to write you for ever so long to thank you and tell you how much I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending the "Town Pump" to me as well as the other boys. I know they all enjoy it as much as I do. A letter does wonders towards making us feel like going on with our job and getting this is like getting a lot of letters. It's swell to know about your own people. The people you lived with in your home town. Civilians servicemen, your own family and all the others. They're all your own people when you get out here. They're the people you want to get back to. Somehow they seem to be better than other people you meet. I know it's that way with me. Thanks for letting me know about my own people and my own home town.

Say, where is all this talent originating? I mean the poetry and the drawings and such that add so much to the "Town Pump". I really enjoy the poetry, being a struggling poet myself.

I should tell you what I'm doing so you'd have a little copy for your next edition but I don't think I can get very much past the censors. They're sticklers for military information you know. However I am going to make an attempt to let you know a few of the facts.

I'm a metal worker, fuel cell repairman, plexiglass mechanic and Technical order clerk attached to the 2nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit abord the ship FS 205. We're on our way overseas. That's about all I can tell. We left the States in November from Mobile, Ala. From there we went to Mexico and then to Panama. After passing through the Canal we came northward up the Pacific coast until we arrived here in Los Angeles, California. We've had shore leave in all these places and seen a great many things. Hollywood, Pasedona, Los Angeles, Balboa, Panama City, and Acapulco are as familiar as Ashby and Fitchburg to me now. Where we go from here is a military secret. If I know I couldn't tell you.

I don't know how many people know my new address so I wish I might have this favor granted me. Please squeeze in my address in some corner of your next issue with a little note telling my buddies to drop me a line if they possibly have the time. If you can do this, it will certainly be appreciated.

Once again before I close I want to thank you all on the staff for the wonderful work you are doing for the boys in the service."

Sgt. T. Haavisto 11117432
Unit Vessel TC-SP 205
c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, California.

With a horde of men I drive a jeep:
With a mob of chaps I try to sleep;
An army accompanies me to mess;
A platoon's around me when I dress;
With a regiment I drill all day;
With a company I eat and play;
For month's on end my only sight
Is men around me day and night;
The Army-I can take it, see,

But the thing that murders me,
The irony that stabs my bones
Is this; They call me Private
Jones!
(From Telephone Topics)

Town News

The Jarcy Club, comprised of the upper grades of High School, took over the Paper Salvage Drive for the month of January. The first Sunday collection was made during one of our worst snow storms, and the boys standing in the back of the truck found out that it wasn't the warmest place in the world. After the boys collected the papers and brought them to Burnap's barn, the girls took over and tied up all the bundles. With the cold chore completed, the Jarcy members returned to the Rumpus Room for coffee and cookies. With still another Sunday Collection coming up, they have already collected 2½ tons of paper.

NEWS FROM THE GRANGE

Ashby Grange has started the New Year with high hopes and ambitions for a prosperous year of '45. The officers for the year were installed by Frank Nelson and suite of Athol. Master-Hortense Ekola, Overseer- Helen Bailey, Lecturer-Bernice Curran, Steward- Idele Blackwood, Chaplin-Lempi Suokko, Treasurer- Howard Wilkinson, Secretary- Caroline Wilkinson, Gatekeeper-Eino Pernaa, Ceres- Helen Foote, Pomona-Evelyn Pernaa, Flora-Mabel Wright, Lady Assistant Steward-Doris Davis, Chorister-Lora Piper.

The home and community service have already paid the dues for the year of all members in the armed service. To date our flag has 22 blue and 2 gold stars. Plans are under way for another dance on March 9. We have charge of the paper salvaging drive for the month of Feb. Scrap books and toys are in the making for donations to hospitals. Some of the members are helping out at our local hospitals in their spare time. At our first Feb. Meeting we were to have a style show put on by the men, but due to the winds and snow the men were too busy to attend the meeting, so it will be at a later date. Franklin Ingerson came prepared for his part and was disappointed He was to have impersonated Gypsy Rose Lee in her strip tease act. There is to be a collection at each meeting for a building fund and we are selling household products to swell the fund so that some day we will have our own Grange home. Plans are in progress for a summer Field Day, also an old time grange fair to be held on Sept. 9. It will soon be time for degrees and we hope to have a large class. Pomona, meets in Ashby in May where we will entertain a New Hampshire Pomona, have a state speaker, and have the high school glee club to entertain us again. Ashby Grange wishes all the armed service members the best of luck and a safe return.

Another skunk story which has come to the fore of late, involves two of Ashby's most ardent huntsmen, the Wilson twins. We have been told that the twins were observed one night at the lower right hand corner of the Common. The twins were standing over the drain which is situated there, gun in hand, in a tense attitude, apparently waiting for the enemy to come out. Upon further investigation, it was found that the twins had located a skunk in back of the library, chased it into the drain pipe which comes out on Main Street, and then blocked the hole behind the library. They then sat in eager anticipation on the Common corner, awaiting the skunk's appearance. In due time, he came out the open end of the drain pipe and the twins were ready for the kill, chalking up one more conquest to their long line of victories.

"A" Awards

We are all very proud of the Ashby farmers who are doing their big part in this fight for victory. The following ones have been presented the agricultural "A" banner for "increased efforts to produce food under war conditions: Matti Ekola, Victor Malm, Myron Harris, Elmer Mason, Russell Nelson, Lynn Keyes, Howard White, Charles Stone, Nellie and Michael Caton, Eino Pernaa, Matti Joki, Sakki Pesola, Osmo Hjelm, Ashby Stock Farms, Fred Taylor, and Jewell Hill Farm. The flags are blue background with whitecenter and a red "A".

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Bobby Brand has just returned home from the Burbank Hospital where he has been recovering from a severe laceration of the upper arm and shoulder. While sawing wood with a buzz saw, Bobby slipped on the snow and fell into the saw. He was saved from more serious injury by Howard Damon's quick action of pulling him free.

Renice Bennett is working as a clerk at the Fitchburg Gas & Electric Light Co.

A daughter, Joyce Ann, was born Jan. 16 in New York City to Mr. & Mrs. James Smith. Mrs. Smith is the former Jean Forsythe whom all our townspeople remember as a teacher in Ashby High School. Mr. Smith is a member of the coast guard stationed at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Town Clerk Arthur L. Wass has recovered from an operation at Burbank Hospital, Fitchburg, and is now recooperating at his home.

Mr. Frederick Mason has purchased the Erickson Garage on Main Street and is now open for business. We are sorry to hear that Mrs. Elmer Mason is now at the hospital.

Births

Jan. 21, 1945 at Peterboro, N.H., a daughter, Judith Irene to Effie and Bruno Salo.

Jan. 25, 1945 at Peterboro, N.H. a son to Waino and Tyyne Hjelm.

Jan. 9, 1945 at Peabody, Mass., a son, William Alfred, to Chief Pay Clerk and Mrs. Donald Fuller. Mrs. Fuller is the former Thenis Brewer of Ashby. Don is at the Coast Guard Station at Salem.

DEATHS

Henry Kusti Ojala, 67, died at his home on Richardson Road on December 27 after a long illness.

MARRIAGES

On September 10, 1944 at Stowmarket, England, Sergeant John D.L. Bailey, Jr. U.S.A. to Elizabeth Margaret Catling, St. Neots, Hunts, England. Sgt. Bailey is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Bailey of Piper Road. Sgt. Bailey is now in France and has been overseas since July, 1942.

Government Issue

Sitting on my G.I. bed,
My G.I. hat upon my head,
My G.I. pants, my G.I. shoes-
I wish they'd give me G.I. booze;
G.I. razors and G.I. comb-
G.I. wish that I was home.

They issue everything I need;
Paper to write on, books to read,
My belt, my socks, my G.I. tie,
I'm what is known as a G.I. guy;
They issue food that makesme grow
G.I. want a long furlough.

I eat my food from G.I. plates,
Buy all I want at G.I. rates;
It's G.I. this and G.I. that,
It's G.I. work that breaks my back;
Everything here is G.I. issue-
G.I. wish that I could kiss you.

By A.G.I.

With apologies to Wave Magazine "Squeegee."

-News of Our Boys-

Cpl Merrick Pillsbury, after spending a 30 day furlough with his mother, Mrs. Laura Pillsbury, has been assigned to Fort Knox,Ky.

"Mike", as everybody knows him, spent 28½ months in the European war theatre. This includes seven months in England and the remainder in Africa and Italy. He is qualified to wear four overseas service stripes and four major battle stars on his Africa- European ribbon.

On leaving for home on the army rotation plan, Pillsbury received a letter from General Clark stating he had been selected to come home because he had earned the right.

People of Ashby are very proud of "Mike" and know how much it meant to him to see his home town and family again after his long service abroad.

Stanley Johnson recently spent a 30 day furlough with his parents, Mr.&Mrs. Karl Johnson. He has seen service in Panama and Central America.

Marcel Dionne, who formerly attended the Ashby schools and was a member of the basketball squad, is in the navy somewhere in the Pacific area.

Robert Jarvi is stationed at the naval base at Norfolk, Va. In a recent letter he compared the ferry service there with the uncertain bus service between Ashby and Fitchburg.

Roland Pillsbury, G.M. 3/c, son of Mrs. Laura Pillsbury, recently had a surprise visit with his cousin, Ralph Peabody, of Fitchburg. Their boats docked together somewhere in the Mediterranean.

Sgt. Garnet Bennett has recently been transferred from San Bernardino, California to New Mexico. Garnet has seen most of the states from Maine to Calif. He is married and has a daughter. Garnet's wife hails from Michigan where he was stationed at one time.

Blair Arsenault writes from somewhere in England--"I've only been overseas two months, but I am ready to go back to the States any time they'll send me. It isn't too bad here tho'. We do get in town when we aren't too tired after flying.--The beer isn't so good; it's too warm. I haven't been sight-seeing yet, but I intend to go to London on my next pass."

Blair also appreciates the "Town Pump" and enjoyed his Christmas billfold.

Blair has recently been made a staff sergeant.

Wave Frances Evans F2/c has finished her boot training at Hunter College, N.Y. and has gone to A.&M. College, Stillwater, Oklahoma for further training.

"Bob" Goguen writes from France, "If some of my buddies are located anywhere around here their chances of seeing me will be increased if they know that I landed here on D-day on the invasion of Southern France."

Bob's address is:
Pvt. Robert Goguen 312361395
Service Co. 15th Inf.
A.P.O. 3 c/o Postmaster
New York, N.Y.

A recent letter from Toivo Lybeck states that the weather in Belgium compares favorably with winter in New England-plenty cold. He is O.K. and in good health.

An interesting letter from Leon(Bud) Evans from Florida tells of the warm weather there but that at Christmas time he missed the snow and cold weather.

His work is of experimental nature. During the early years of the war Bud made several trips across the Atlantic.

Dorothy Bernhardt, our Army nurse stationed in France has recently been promoted to First Lieutenant.

*** P.F.C. ROBERT HOLMES ***

Mrs. George Holmes of South Village received word from the war department of the death of her son, P.F.C. Robert Holmes in Belgium. This is the third young man of Ashby to give the supreme sacrifice in the present war. The other two being Richard Bennett, and James Donald Curran. Bob Holmes will be remembered by his many friends in Ashby as a young man of splendid character, genial disposition, and always ready and willing to be of any help when assistance was needed. He attended the Ashby School but left to work in Walker's Mill where he remained for several years. Previous to his entering the Army, he was employed in Fitchburg. Our sympathy goes to his mother and may God give her strength and faith to believe that Bob did not give his life in vain but that the world has been made better by his sacrifice.

Mrs. George Holmes, who only recently received word that her son, Robert Holmes had been killed in action, has received a telegram from the war department that another son, P.F.C. Ernest Holmes was reported missing in action.

Arthur L. Whitney S2/c writes how much he enjoys the "Town Pump". Arthur is at the present time, on a "Shake-down cruise."

Paul Heikkala has been transferred from Bainbridge, Md. to Georgia.

Waldemar Tiilikkala, MOMM 2/c has written home that he had participated in an amphibious assault on the Pamia Islands (St. Davids) and more recently their ship led in the first amphibious assault wave in Lingayen Gulf on Luzon Island in the Phillipines.

Also he requested his folks to send him some developing material as he has gone into business developing, printing and enlarging pictures for the boys over there.

Marston Page, Ralph Varney, Cam Piper and Rusty Forss have all recently been home on furlough. Ralph's furlough is prior to going overseas. The boys were all pleased to be home at the same time. There is some talk that Marston and Ralph hope to get over to New York to see Luther Hayes and Margorie Bennett. We've heard it said that Rusty spent more time with a certain young lady than he did at home.

Robert Watkins, son of Mrs. Louise Watkins of Fitchburg and formerly of Ashby is with the army somewhere in France.

Everett Rackliffe and Francis Bennett send thanks for the Christmas billfolds. A note of appreciation also comes from Allan Holmes for the "Town Pump".

Birthdays--March

Toivo Haavisto	Mar. 2
Toivo Lybeck	Mar. 13
Everett Treworgy Jr.	Mar. 16
Walter Flinkstrom	Mar. 17
Rene Goguen	Mar. 19

****

If they look young, they're old,
If they look old, they're young,
If they look back,
For heaven's sake, follow them !

****

"Dear Dad", runs the epistle, "I'm thinking about settling down here after the war and going into business. I'm planning on crossing kangaroos with racoons and raising fur coats with pockets."

*** P.F.C. ROBERT HOLMES ***

Mr. George Holmes of South Village received word from the war department of the death of her son, P.F.C. Robert Holmes in Belgium. This is the third young man Ashby to give the supreme sacrifice in the present war. The other two being Richard Bennett, and James Gerald Overman. Bob Holmes will be remembered by his friends in Ashby as a young man of spirit and character, genial disposition, and always ready to do his share of any help when assistance was needed. After finishing Ashby school he left to work in Worcester. He was retained for several years, when, enlisting in the Army, he was employed in the Ordnance Department. He was very fortunate in being able to go to his mother and family in Worcester and faith to believe that Bob died not in vain but that the cause for which he made the supreme sacrifice.

[illegible] no one [illegible] [illegible] on [illegible] lived a [illegible] P.F.C. Ernest [illegible] in [illegible]

[illegible] S/c [illegible] the [illegible] at the [illegible] down-

[illegible] has been transferred [illegible], Md. to [illegible]

[illegible], Mont. S/c [illegible] be had [illegible] suspicious assault [illegible] (of. Davids) [illegible] their ship. Lod[illegible] suspicious assault [illegible] on Lemon [illegible] Philippines. [illegible] to [illegible] clothing material [illegible] to business [illegible] and en[illegible] for the [illegible]

[illegible] Avoid all [illegible] through. [illegible] to [illegible]. The boys were [illegible] at the [illegible] in some talk [illegible] walk home to

got over to New York [illegible] Luther Hayes [illegible] Bennett. [illegible] that Rusty [illegible] a certain young [illegible] at home.

Robert [illegible] Louise [illegible] formerly [illegible] the army [illegible]

[illegible] Bennett sound [illegible] our [illegible] bill [illegible] approval [illegible] Allan Holmes [illegible] Jump".

Birthdays--Mar.

[illegible] Heavirde
[illegible] Lybook
[illegible] Trout [illegible]
[illegible] Elmhurst
[illegible] Dugan

[illegible]

If they look [illegible]'re old
If they look old, they're young
If they look [illegible]
For [illegible] them!

[illegible]

"Dear Dad", runs the e[illegible] thinking about settling down here after the war and going into business. I'm planning on crossing Kay foos with raccoons and making fur coats with pockets."